<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

The following is a complete listing of the claims now pending. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A processing method of ordering <u>a new consumable to be used by a printer</u> and returning ~~consumables~~ <u>a used consumable, used by the printer</u>, being performed by an information processing ~~apparatus~~ <u>system</u> capable of communicating with a <u>plurality of terminals</u> ~~terminal~~ via ~~a communication network~~ <u>the Internet</u>, said method comprising the steps of:

~~transmitting input screens containing data fields to the terminal for display, allowing a user to input data into the data fields to order a consumable and specify the return of the used consumable~~ <u>receiving participating information, indicating whether or not a user wishes to participate in a return service, from at least one terminal of the plurality of terminals, wherein the return service is provided by the system allowing the user to return the used consumable</u>;

setting a flag in a memory unit <u>managed by</u> [[of]] the information processing ~~apparatus~~ <u>system</u>, ~~the flag reflecting the data inputted by the user into the data fields to order consumables and to specify the return of the used consumable~~ <u>in accordance with the participating information</u>; [[and]]

<u>transmitting first information containing data fields to at least one of the plurality of terminals for display on a screen, and allowing the user to input data into the data fields to order the new consumable and specify the return of the used consumable; and</u>

transmitting ~~display data~~ <u>second information for display on the screen of at least one of the plurality of terminals</u>, which includes a message (a) to prompt the

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user concerning the return ~~of the used consumable~~ <u>service</u> in a case when the flag set in said

setting step indicates that the ~~return of the used consumable was not specified~~ <u>user did not</u>

<u>wish to participate in the return service</u>, and (b) indicating a history regarding the return of the

used consumable by the user and an incentive point corresponding to the history ~~regarding the~~

~~return of the used consumable~~ in a case when the flag set in said setting step indicates that the

~~return of the used consumable was specified,~~ <u>user wishes to participate in the return service</u> ~~to~~

~~the terminal for display~~.

Claims 2-57 (canceled)

Claim 58 (currently amended): A processing method of returning a used

consumable<u>, used by a printer</u>, being performed by an information processing ~~apparatus~~

<u>system</u> capable of communicating with a ~~terminal~~ <u>plurality of terminals</u> via ~~a communication~~

~~network~~ <u>the Internet</u>, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving user log-in information from ~~the terminal~~ <u>one of the plurality of</u>

<u>terminals;</u>

reading ~~result information, which includes~~ <u>a</u> history ~~information~~ <u>regarding</u>

the used consumable returned by a user <u>corresponding to</u> [[of]] the ~~terminal~~ <u>user log-in</u>

<u>information</u>, from a database ~~in accordance with the user log-in information;~~ [[and]]

<u>determining an incentive point based on the history read in said reading</u>

<u>step; and</u>

~~providing information containing a part of~~ <u>generating a message indicating</u>

the history ~~information regarding the used consumable returned by the consumer~~ <u>read in said</u>

<u>reading step</u> and <u>the</u> incentive point [[data]] <u>determined in said determining step,</u> to <u>be sent to</u>

one of the plurality of terminals ~~the terminal for display, wherein the information processing~~

~~apparatus determines the incentive point data based on the history information.~~

Claim 59 (canceled)

Claim 60 (currently amended): A method according to claim 58, further comprising the steps of:

~~transmitting input screens containing data fields to the terminal for display, allowing the user to input data into the data fields to specify the return of the used consumable~~ receiving participating information, indicating whether a user wishes to participate in a return service or not, from at least one terminal of the plurality of terminals, wherein the return service is provided by the system allowing the user to return the used consumable;

setting a flag in a memory unit [[of]] managed by the information processing ~~apparatus~~ system, ~~the flag reflecting the data inputted by the user into the data fields to specify the return of the used consumable~~ in accordance with the participating information; and

transmitting ~~display data~~ first information for display on a screen of at least one of the plurality of terminals, which includes ~~a message (a)~~ (a) a message to prompt the user concerning the return service ~~of the used consumable~~ in a case when ~~the status of~~ the flag set in said setting step indicates that the ~~return of the used consumable was not specified~~ user did not wish to participate in the return service, and (b) ~~indicating a history regarding the return of the used consumable by the user and an incentive point corresponding to the history regarding the return of the used consumable in a case when the status of the flag set in~~

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~~said setting step indicates that the return of the used consumable was specified, to the terminal~~ ~~for display~~ <u>the message generated in said generating step in a case when the flag set in said</u> <u>setting step indicates that the user wishes to participate in the return service</u>.

Claim 61 (new) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program for executing a processing method of ordering a new consumable to be used by a printer and returning a used consumable, used by the printer, being performed by an information processing system capable of communicating with a plurality of terminals via the Internet, said program comprising:

code for a receiving step of receiving participating information, indicating whether or not a user wishes to participate in a return service, from at least one terminal of the plurality of terminals, wherein the return service is provided by the system allowing the user to return the used consumable;

code for a setting step of setting a flag in a memory unit managed by the information processing system, in accordance with the participating information;

code for a first transmitting step of transmitting first information containing data fields to at least one of the plurality of terminals for display on a screen, and allowing the user to input data into the data fields to order the new consumable and specify the return of the used consumable; and

code for a second transmitting step of transmitting second information for display on the screen of at least one of the plurality of terminals, which includes a message (a) to prompt the user concerning the return service in a case when the flag set by said code for a setting step indicates that user did not wish to participate in the return service, and (b) indicating a history regarding the return of the used consumable by the user

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and an incentive point corresponding to the history in a case when the flag set by said code for a setting step indicates that the user wished to participate in the return service.

Claim 62 (new): A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program for executing a processing method of returning a used consumable, used by a printer, being performed by an information processing system capable of communicating with a plurality of terminals via the Internet, said program comprising:

code for a first receiving step of receiving user log-in information from one of the plurality of terminals;

code for a reading step of reading a history regarding the used consumable returned by a user corresponding to the user log-in information, from a database;

code for a determining step of determining an incentive point based on the history read by said code for a reading step; and

code for a generating step of generating a message indicating the history read by said code for a first reading step and the incentive point determined by said code for a determining step, to be sent to one of the plurality of terminals.

Claim 63 (new): A computer program according to claim 62, further comprising:

code for a second receiving step of receiving participating information, indicating whether or not a user wishes to participate in a return service, from at least one terminal of the plurality of terminals, wherein the return service is provided by the system allowing the user to return the used consumable;

code for a setting step of setting a flag in a memory unit managed by the information processing system, in accordance with the participating information; and

code for a transmitting step of transmitting first information for display on a screen of at least one of the plurality of terminals, which includes (a) a message to prompt the user concerning the return service in a case when the flag set by said code for a setting step indicates that the user did not wish to participate in the return service, and (b) the message generated by said code for a generating step in a case when the flag set by said code for a setting step indicates that the user wishes to participate in the return service.

Claim 64 (new): An information processing apparatus for ordering a new consumable to be used by a printer and returning a used consumable, used by the printer, by communicating with a plurality of terminals via the Internet, said apparatus comprising:

a receiver, arranged to receive participating information, indicating whether or not a user wishes to participate in a return service, from at least one terminal of the plurality of terminals of the user, wherein the return service is provided by a system, which includes said apparatus, allowing the user to return the used consumable;

a setting unit, arranged to set a flag in a memory unit of said apparatus, in accordance with the participating information;

a transmitter, arranged to transmit first information containing data fields to at least one of the plurality of terminals for display on a screen, and allowing the user to input data into the data fields to order the new consumable and specify the return of the used consumable, and to transmit second information for display on the screen of at least one of the plurality of terminals, which includes a message (a) to prompt the user concerning the return service in a case when the flag set by said setting unit indicates that user did not wish to

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participate in the return service, and (b) indicating a history regarding the return of the used consumable by the user and an incentive point corresponding to the history in a case when the flag set by said setting unit indicates that the user wishes to participate in the return service.

Claim 65 (new): An information processing apparatus for returning a used consumable, used by a printer, by communicating with a plurality of terminals via the Internet, said apparatus comprising:

a receiver, arranged to receive user log-in information from one of the plurality of terminals;

a reader, arranged to read result information, which includes a history regarding the used consumable returned by a user corresponding to the user log-in information, from a database in accordance with the user log-in information;

a determination unit, arranged to determine an incentive point based on the history read by said reader; and

a generator, arranged to generate a message indicating the history read by said code reader and the incentive point determined by said determination unit, to be sent to one of the plurality of terminals.

Claim 66 (new): An apparatus according to claim 65, further comprising a setting unit, arranged to set a flag in a memory unit of said apparatus, in accordance with the participating information received by said receiver from one of the plurality of terminals,

wherein the participating information indicates whether or not a user wishes to participate in a return service, the return service is provided by a system, which includes said apparatus, allowing the user to return the used consumable and said transmitter

transmits information for display on a screen of at least one of the plurality of terminals, which includes (a) a message to prompt the user concerning the return service in a case the flag set by said setting unit indicates that the user did not wish to participate in the return service, and (b) the message generated by said generator in a case when the flag set by said setting unit indicates that the user wishes to participate in the return service.